

Commissioner Lori F. Kaplan

Text as prepared for: Clark County SWD Drop-off Site Opening

Date presented: September 24, 2002, 10:30 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

Location: Clark County SWMD
9208 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN

(Text does not include verbatim comments)

Introduction

- Thank-you for inviting me to speak today.
- It is so exciting to see the Solid Waste Management District and the Soil and Water Conservation District team up to help improve water quality and make the county a safe, clean place to live.
- It is also encouraging to see the support from local municipalities, the mayors, county commissioners, town council presidents and everyone else who has made this project happen. With ventures such as these, community involvement is the key to success.
- IDEM's \$27,760 household hazardous waste grant, combined with the SWMD's matching grants and the generous contributions of the SWCD will no doubt help reduce pollutants out of our rivers, lakes and streams and landfills. (The Clark-Floyd Landfill is located in Clark County)
- These funds will be used to:
 - Construct a hazardous waste building
 - Construct a motor oil, oil filter and antifreeze collection center
 - Purchase protective equipment and clothing for employees
 - Generate and distribute educational and promotional items
- It is estimated that if only two percent of Clark County households utilize the new drop-off site, it will keep a total of 49,875 lbs. of household hazardous waste from entering the environment within the first year of operation.
- That is a staggering amount when you stop and think about what household hazardous waste is – motor oil, antifreeze, cleansers, batteries and oil-based paints, to name a few of the more common items.

- All of those items will be accepted here, where they will be stored until they can be disposed of safely.
- Pollutants aren't just found in industries. They are in our homes and under our kitchen sinks.
- Americans produce four million pounds of household hazardous waste per day.
- There are 33,292 households in Clark County. That means that each of those households generates about 75 lbs. of household hazardous waste per year.
- If disposed of improperly – either down a drain, spilled on the ground or poured in a waterway - that amount of household hazardous waste is capable of doing significant environmental damage.
- In addition to providing a drop-off point for these chemicals, the Clark County Solid Waste Management District is going a step further.
- Part of IDEM's grant money will be used to develop a non-hazardous household cleaner guide that will be distributed throughout the county.
- Because, as we all know, some of grandma's cleaning hints like using vinegar to clean windows and mirrors were right on target – and usually cheaper than commercial cleansers.
- So, I'd like to congratulate the Clark County Solid Waste Management District and Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District on their hard work. IDEM is proud to be a part of their efforts to help keep Clark County clean.